

June 2, 2009



U.S. CONGRESSMAN

Bobby Bright

REPRESENTING THE 2ND DISTRICT OF ALABAMA

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Dear Friend,

On Thursday, my office hosted a health care summit at Troy University's Dothan campus. Leaders in the health care field spoke at the summit, including the Director of Public Health in Alabama, the Alabama Director of AARP, the President of the Medical Association of Alabama, and the President of the Alabama Hospital Association. The purpose of the summit was to open up a dialogue between experts in health care, local citizens, and myself.

I was tremendously proud of the interest shown throughout the district and can truly say that it was a success. The speakers addressed some of the most important health care issues in Alabama, as well as possible solutions to current problems. As you know, health care reform is a major topic in Congress right now, and there are many ideas currently being discussed about how we can effectively reform our current system. As your Congressman, it is my job to be informed on the issues and make decisions that will positively impact the district.



What do you think should or shouldn't be done to change our health care system?

Do you work in a health care-related field?

☐ Yes

☐ No

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Congressman Bright listens to presenters at the Dothan Health Care Summit

Health care policy affects us all and has been front and center in our political debates for quite some time. Moreover, it is an issue that has a huge impact on some of the other critical issues of our times. Specifically, the rising cost of health care presents significant fiscal challenges to our economy and compromises our ability to balance the federal budget over the long-term. Without reform, federal health care spending is estimated to grow to one-third of the budget and account for over \$1.4 trillion in costs by 2020.

We must be cognizant of the fact that our deficits are unsustainable and we can't afford any new, recurring budget mandates. With that being said, my primary focus will be on finding ways to make health care more efficient. Studies show that up to one-third of money spent on health care each year is wasteful. Making the system run more smoothly alone will mark a huge improvement to the system and a good - and necessary - first step.

My hope is that any legislation considered by the full House of Representatives recognizes the power of the free market and the importance of the individual in choosing the health care plan he or she thinks is best. The system works best when people are able to make their own choices in insurance, doctors, hospitals, etc. That's why I oppose a single-payer, nationalized health care system.

Without question, providing affordable and quality health care to more Americans is an absolute priority. America is too great of a country for 45 million of its citizens- many from working families- to not have health care. However, we must do it the right way and closely examine the details. Insuring more people with quality coverage is our goal, but we must guarantee that any plan does not put an additional burden on taxpayers and those who already have coverage.

As Congress debates the direction of health care reform, I look forward to hearing your thoughts and concerns and continuing this very important discussion. Please do not hesitate to call my offices at the numbers below. It is my great pleasure to serve you and the entire Second District of Alabama.

Sincerely,

Congressman Bobby Bright

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